

## Police Costs - 2020 - Greater Victoria

Municipality	Population	Police Strength	Population per officer	Crime Rate	Case Load	Total Expenditure for Policing	Policing Cost Per Capita	Total Municipal Expenditure	% Policing Represents of Total Expenditures
Central Saanich	18,353	23	798	26	21	\$ 5,108,122	\$278	\$ 27,015,698	18.9%
Colwood (RCMP)	19,387	18	1077	49	54	\$ 4,019,642	\$207	\$ 22,957,667	17.5%
Esquimalt (Vic PD) (1)	19,015					\$ 8,561,440	\$450	\$ 34,911,578	24.5%
Highlands (RCMP) (2)	2,225		n/a			\$ 176,399	\$79	\$ 3,203,047	5.5%
Langford (RCMP)	44,044	53	831	53	44	\$ 11,743,455	\$267	\$ 63,679,794	18.4%
Metchosin (RCMP) (2)	4,708		n/a			\$ 254,690	\$54	\$ 4,891,650	5.2%
North Saanich (RCMP)	11,965	11	1088	29	31	\$ 1,756,400	\$147	18,975,293	9.3%
Oak Bay	18,918	23	823	29	24	\$ 5,170,257	\$273	\$ 39,710,684	13.0%
Saanich	125,107	166	754	41	31	\$ 35,744,794	\$286	207,024,373	17.3%
Sidney (RCMP)	12,312	15	821	47	39	\$2,653,396	\$216	23,023,629	11.5%
Sooke (RCMP)	15,083	13	1160	51	59	\$2,120,241	\$141	\$ 15,273,086	13.9%
Victoria (1)	94,415					\$ 51,587,934	\$546	210,976,407	24.5%
View Royal (RCMP)	11,829	12	986	52	52	\$ 1,479,755	\$125	17,007,645	8.7%
<b>Combined Victoria/Esquimalt</b>	113,430	<b>249</b>	456	115	52	\$ 60,149,374	\$530	\$ 245,887,985	24.5%
<b>Combined Four Core Municipalities</b>	257,455	<b>438</b>				<b>\$ 101,064,425</b>	<b>\$393</b>	<b>\$ 492,623,042</b>	<b>20.5%</b>
<b>Regional Population (excluding CRD unincorporated)</b>	397,361								
<b>REGIONAL TOTALS</b>		<b>583</b>				<b>\$ 130,376,525</b>		<b>\$ 688,650,551</b>	

### Data Sources:

**Police Strength** (Police officers), **Population**, **Population per Officer**, **Crime Rate**, **Case Load** & **Total Police Costs** from 2020 BC Police Resources Report see - <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/law-crime-and-justice/criminal-justice/police/publications/statistics/police-resources.pdf>

**Crime rate** is the number of Criminal Code offences or crimes (excluding drugs and traffic) reported for every 1,000 permanent residents.  
(includes both Indictable and summary conviction offences)

**Total Police Costs** include support staff (non sworn, e.g. jail, admin, communications) plus accommodation, vehicles, equipment, etc.  
Police costs for each Municipality over 5,000, are provided to the Ministry annually.

**Total Municipal Expenditures** (for all services) obtained from municipal Audited Financial Statements for 2020.

### **Notes to Police Costs 2018 - Greater Victoria:**

**Note 1:** Victoria and Esquimalt did not provide separate officer strength for each Municipality nor were Crime Rate or Case Load per officer data separated in the 2020 Police Resources Report. (Vic PD will be reporting these stats separately in future years.

**Note 2: Metchosin & Highlands** have populations under 5,000, hence are policed under the Provincial Contract (RCMP). They are charged a Police Tax by the Province - there is no specific number of officers attached to either District and separate Crime Rate and Case Loads are not provided in the BC Police Resources Report. Westshore RCMP have 5 members assigned for Metchosin, Highlands, the CRD Juan de Fuca Electoral Area and 1 RCMP member assigned to First Nations.

**Note 3: Police Services Division, Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General** release the annual Police Resources Report late in the following year for the prior year. The 2020 report was issued in November 2021.

### **Note on RCMP Policing Contracts:**

The Federal and Provincial Governments sign long-term policing agreements. Municipalities may use the RCMP to Provide local Police Services, subject to Provincial approval. Under the Master Contract, the RCMP acts as a Provincial Police Force. Municipalities with fewer than 5,000 are Policed by the RCMP under the Provincial Contract - such municipalities pay an nominal Police Tax to the Province (see Note 2 above).

**There are two forms of RCMP municipal contracts, as follows:**

- Municipalities with **between 5,000 & 15,000 population** pay 70% of an agreed upon cost **per RCMP member** + accommodation & support staff, e.g. North Saanich, Sidney, Sooke, View Royal - the balance of Policing costs are absorbed by the Federal Government.
- Municipalities with **more than 15,000 population** pay 90% of an agreed upon cost **per RCMP member** + accommodation & support staff, e.g. Colwood and Langford - the balance of Policing costs are absorbed by the Federal Government.

**RCMP contracts tend to have a higher ratio of citizens' per Police Officer**, e.g.: Colwood **1102 to 1**, Langford **831 to 1**,

North Saanich **1088 to 1**, Sooke **1160 to 1** and View Royal **986 to 1** and Sidney **821 to 1**. Policing costs are lower

in those municipalities because of (a) the RCMP contract rate per member, which is shared with the Federal Government and (b) the higher ratio of citizens per officer. **RCMP members are currently paid substantially below Municipal Peace Officers, however the unionization of the RCMP** and a recent significant salary increase (with retroactive pay) will be reflected in RCMP Municipal Policing costs.

During 2020, the Salary of an RCMP Five Year First Class Constable was \$86,110. The salary for a 5 year Constable Vic PD was \$104,786 (Other local Municipal Police have salaries similar to Vic PD).

**Vic PD (including Esquimalt)** has the lowest citizen to officer ratio and the highest crime rate due to the demands of policing the **regions downtown** central business district, with its concentration of entertainment centres (night clubs, bars). The effects of homelessness, people with mental health issues, illegal drug use and various other factors contribute to this higher crime rate. The City of Victoria (94,415) which acts as a downtown core for a region of 397,361 (2020 estimate - BC Stats). Despite having a larger tax base, Victoria/Esquimalt spend almost 25% of their annual budgets on policing, significantly more than all other CRD Municipalities.

**Special Note on Esquimalt** - Policing of Esquimalt was amalgamated with Victoria by an order in council from the Province in 2002. In 2014 a Framework agreement was signed that provided greater certainty on budget process, adequate policing, a clear dispute resolution process and fair and equitable allocation of police resources. The development of this agreement occurred after the Province denied Esquimalt's request for consideration of service by the RCMP. Esquimalt currently contributes 13.7% of Vic PD's annual budget. Esquimalt contributes financially to downtown Victoria Policing through its agreement with Victoria for Police Services.

**The LePard report can be read at:** <https://vicpd.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/201204i-LePard-Report-re-Sec-42-Phase-II-review-of-FA.pdf>

**No other Greater Victoria municipality does so. This is a situation unique in British Columbia.**